

What does your beard say about you?
你的胡须展现了你的个性吗?



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Vocabulary: Hair 词汇:毛发

I have a problem. I'm trying to grow a beard but I'm not sure if it suits me! This **hairy** attachment to men's faces has been very fashionable in the UK for a while. But now mine is finally **sprouting**, I wonder if I have **missed the boat**.

Perhaps this is not such a bad thing. A new scientific study suggests that the more beards there are in a population, the less attractive they become. If this is true, it would give **clean-shaven** men a **competitive advantage**.



Have beards had their day?

We've currently reached a peak in beard popularity in the UK and men might soon be reaching for their **razors** to give themselves a **clean-cut** look. But beards have gone in and out of fashion over hundreds of years. Think of the famous 19th century British naturalist Charles Darwin who had a big **bushy** beard. Or from the world of literature, Charles Dickens, who **sported** a very **flamboyant** beard.

But why have men through the ages grown such defined **whiskers**? Lucinda Hawksley, writer of *Moustaches, Whiskers and Beards* thinks that that "the most heavily bearded times in Britain are either when women are in power, such as Elizabeth I or Queen Victoria, or when there's a big discussion of feminism ... you get a woman on the throne and men go, 'Oh, got to have a beard'".

Perhaps that's true, but I don't think my attempt to grow a beard is a display of **testosterone** in reaction to powerful women – it's probably just laziness. Of course there are good reasons to **cultivate** a good beard – special campaigns like 'Movember' and 'Decembeard' invite men to get hairy for charity in certain months of the year.

I'm not a **pogonophile** – someone who loves beards. And as I've only managed to grow some **stubble** so far, I think I will visit the **barber** to get my facial hair removed. But now I'm thinking about a **moustache** instead. What do you think?

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. According to a new scientific study, when do beards start to become less attractive?
2. Name a British historical figure who had a big bushy beard.
3. True or false? *Elizabeth I expected men to grow beards.*
4. In which month of the year do you think men are invited to grow a beard to raise money for charity?
5. Which noun in the article means not making any effort to do something?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. New out-of-town shopping centres are _____ up all over the place.

growing	sprouting	jumping	falling
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2. Because it was close to the city centre, his company had a _____ over the other businesses.

competitive advance	competition advantage	competing advancing	competitive advantage
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3. My friend turned up at the party _____ a Superman costume which everyone thought was very funny.

cultivating	sporting	sprouting	competing
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4. My mother liked my new boyfriend because he was _____.

clean-cut	cleaned-out	cut-out	cleaning
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5. To _____ coffee beans you need good soil and a warm and wet climate.

cultivation	sprout	cultivate	sport
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. According to a new scientific study, when do beards start to become less attractive? **When there are lots of beards in a population, they become less attractive.**
2. Name a British historical figure who had a big bushy beard. **Charles Darwin.**
3. True or false? *Elizabeth I expected men to grow beards.* **False. Author, Lucinda Hawksley, said men felt they should grow a beard when women, such as Elizabeth I, were in power.**
4. In which month of the year do you think men are invited to grow a beard to raise money for charity? **December (the campaign is called 'Decembeard').**
5. Which noun in the article means not making any effort to do something? **Laziness.**

Exercise 练习

1. New out-of-town shopping centres are **sprouting** up all over the place.
2. Because it was close to the city centre, his company had a **competitive advantage** over the other businesses.
3. My friend turned up at the party **sporting** a Superman costume which everyone thought was very funny.
4. My mother liked my new boyfriend because he was **clean-cut**.
5. To **cultivate** coffee beans you need good soil and a warm and wet climate.

Glossary 词汇表

hairy	多毛的
to sprout	(毛发) 生长、长出
miss the boat	错失良机
clean-shaven	胡子刮干净的
competitive advantage	竞争优势
razor	剃须刀
clean-cut	(外表) 干净整洁的
bushy	(毛发) 浓密的
to sport	(动词) 留, 穿戴
flamboyant	夸张的
whiskers	胡须
testosterone	睾丸素
cultivate	(原意) 培养, (此处指) 留(胡子)
pogonophile	一个喜爱胡子的人
stubble	胡子茬
barber	(为男性理发的) 理发师
moustache	八字胡